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COUNTRY Germany (British Zone and Berlin)

SUBJECT Independent Social Democratic Party
and Its Sponsor

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- The planned policy of the Independent Social Democratic Party (Unabhängige Sozialdemokratische Partei-USPD), sponsored by Heinz Krüger, is to work for a rapprochement between East and West. An explanatory letter to that effect has already been transmitted by Max Fechner to the Russians, who let it be understood that such a policy would receive their full support. In an effort to gain support, Krüger also approached the followers of the Marxistische Arbeitsgemeinschaft within the SPD, as well as editors of eastern-sector newspapers, such as the Nachtrepp, the Berliner Zeitung, and the Tägliche Rundschau.
- Since the end of hostilities, Krüger has been successively Mayor of Berlin-Hermesdorf, then local editor of the Sozialdemokrat, and Press Chief of Schleswig-Holstein under Minister-President Lohmann. He became an intimate of Erich Arp, Minister of Agriculture, whose close contacts with the KPD and with SED functionaries in Berlin, in particular, had become a source of friction and grave dissension between the government and the SPD. Shortly after Arp left the Ministry of Agriculture, Krüger too resigned from his post. He returned to Berlin, but continued to keep in close contact with Arp. According to Arp, the new party also has the support of Käber, Minister of the Interior, and Pohle, formerly Minister of Labor in the Schleswig-Holstein government. Krüger and Arp had mutual friends in the former Russian Zone SPD, like Max Fechner and Fritz Schreiber, who have become prominent SED officials. During the last few weeks, Krüger, following the advice of Arp, tried to get in touch with important KPD officials in Berlin, among whom was Dr. Kurt Fischer, President of the German Administration of the Interior.
- At the present time, Krüger is a member of the board of directors of the Helmut von Gerlach Society and of the Kulturbund, where he maintains close contact with Dr. Carl Helfrich and Alexander Abusch. Krüger would like to publish a newspaper and call it Welt am Montag. This is the name of a well known pacifist, left-wing newspaper, which was published in the twenties by Helmut von Gerlach, now deceased. He hopes to get approval for the paper from French military authorities in Berlin. Fechner approved this plan beforehand, saying that as long as it originated with Krüger, all Russian agencies would give their sanction. Fechner, who acts as intermediary between Krüger and the Russians, is confident that Krüger's undertaking will be more successful than similar campaigns undertaken in the past by other former SPD members.

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